

Security

Redraft of letter prepared by DDA

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On 21 July you asked all of the members of the SCC to report to you on what actions we were taking to curb leaks of sensitive information, especially what appear to be deliberate leaks to undercut your policies. I fully share your concern and particularly feel that grave damage is being done to our capability to carry on the legitimate intelligence activities of this country.

Over the past year I have taken the following actions to tighten security:

- Implemented a zero-based review of all compartmented clearances throughout the intelligence community and with CIA-sponsored contractors.
- Froze the total number of compartmented clearances throughout the intelligence community since 1 June 1977.
- Strengthened the Director of Central Intelligence's Security Committee as a focal point for reporting and following up on unauthorized disclosures.
- Recently directed a vigorous security consciousness program throughout the CIA.

- Have been working with our contracting and legal authorities to develop contractual language that will put tougher teeth into the security provisions of our contracts with commercial firms.
- Developed cooperative procedures with the FBI for ensuring a full exchange of information and coordinated review of any evidence of espionage activities operating against our government.

With respect to my specific responses to your directions of 21 July, I have taken the following actions:

- Reduced the number of people attending my Director's staff meetings where sensitive information such as discussed in the SCC is most likely to be considered.
- I'm in the process of exploring the procurement and utilization of plastic privacy envelopes with a simple form of seal. The object would be to ensure direct transmission of sensitive material from one principal to another without necessity of intervening staff having access to the material.
- Reemphasized through a Director's Notice the importance of security in general; and specifically noted that no members of the Central Intelligence Agency are to have contact with members of the media on professional matters without complying with certain Agency regulations.

-Dismissed two employees who were found to be transmitting classified information in an unauthorized fashion and very probably with the intent of influencing policy.

There are two areas where I believe concerted Executive policy is needed in order to help tighten our security. First is with respect to encouraging the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate unauthorized disclosures even if prosecution is improbable for reasons of security. Often today the more serious the substance of a leak, the less likely the perpetrator will be located. The second action is to develop an Administration policy on whether additional legislative action is needed with respect to breaches of security and if so, what sort. The more I make the case in public and before the Congress that our national interests are being endangered by security breaches today, the more I am asked directly what, if any, legislation I support. At the present time I waffle my response out of concern for getting ahead of the Administration's position on this issue. I do believe that the time has come when we must grapple with it.

I assure you of my continued dedication to and efforts in support of your desire to reduce the unconscionable flow of leaks we have experienced in the past year and a half.

Yours,

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